IN THE CLAIMS:

A listing of the status of all claims 1-19 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Previously Presented). A method for admission control of packet flows in a network, the method comprising:

initiating a flow of packets across the network;

determining a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network;

marking at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

controlling the initiated flow of packets across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.

2 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein

the network comprises a plurality of network elements, and

the flow rate is determined at a first network element, where the first network element is part of an access link of the network.

3 (Original). The method according to claim 1, where the at least one of the plurality of packets comprises at least one signaling packet.

4 (Original). The method according to claim 3, where the at least one signaling packet originates from an end terminal outside the network.

5 (Original). The method according to claim 4, where information associated with the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one signaling packet is communicated to the end terminal.

6 (Original). The method according to claim 4, where the end terminal echoes information associated with the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one signaling packet in a transmission to the network.

7 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1 further comprising cancelling the initiated flow of packets across the network if the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets is marked.

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8 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the initiated flow of packets across the network is controlled by an entity that controls the network.

9 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the control of the initiated flow of packets across the network is based at least in part on priorities or importance of the plurality of packets and the initiated flow of packets.

10 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of packets comprise real-time packets.

11 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of packets comprise Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

12 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of packets comprise voice over IP (VoIP) packets.

13 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one predetermined bit is part of a

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Differentiated Services field in an IP header of the at least one of the plurality of packets.

14 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined rate is based on a network bandwidth allocated for the plurality of packets.

15 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined rate is raised to a value above the allocated network bandwidth for a predetermined period of time.

16 (Original). At least one signal embodied in at least one carrier wave for transmitting a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

17 (Original). At least one processor readable carrier for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

18 (Presented Presently). A system for admission control of packet flows, the system comprising:

at least one terminal that initiates a flow of packets across a network;

at least one network element that:

determines a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network, and

marks at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

an admission control module that controls the initiated flow of packets across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.

19 (Previously Presented). A system for admission control of packet flows, the system comprising:

means for initiating a flow of packets across the network;

means for determining a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network;

means for marking at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

means for controlling the initiated flow of packets across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.